



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

VITO MARCANTONIO

PART 6 OF 12

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STATEMENT OF FREDERICK V. F. BRYAN BEFORE
ROBERT H. BACON, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL,
AND CHIEF INVESTIGATOR OF THE SENATE
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE CAMPAIGN CONTRI-
BUTIONS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Room 1404, U. S. Courthouse
2 Foley Square, New York City
December 12, 1946.

By Mr. Borda

Q What is your name?

A Frederick V. F. Bryan, 102 Madison Lane. I am a lawyer and am a member of the law firm of Saxe, Bacon & O'Shea at that address.

Q What is your home address?

A I have just moved to 21 East 93d Street.

Q How long have you lived at that address?

A Since last Monday; I just moved in.

Q And prior to that?

A Prior to that I was at 529 East 85th Street.

Q How long have you been a resident of the State of New York?

A All my life.

Q How long have you been engaged in politics?

A I am a lawyer by profession. Before the war, I was Assistant Corporation Counsel of the City of New York from 1936 to 1943, and from 1943 to 1945, I was Assistant Corporation Counsel of the City of New York. I have been engaged in politics for some years.

Q In what branch of service were you?

A Air Corps. I entered the Air Corps as a first lieutenant in April, 1942, and left the Air Corps as a full Colonel. My terminal leave expired in February, 1945. I was overseas for 2 1/2 years.

the bulk of which I spent as Deputy Chief of Staff of the 2d Air Division of the Eighth Air Force which flew all the B-24's for the Eighth Air Force in the air offensive against Europe.

Q Could you give us briefly your political affiliations?

A I am a Republican.

Q Have you always been a Republican?

A Yes.

Q When you became a candidate, in what manner were you approached by whom, etc.

A I was approached by a group of Republicans who were residents of the 18th Congressional District. I was asked if I would permit my name to be put forward before the meeting of the District leaders who I believe are charged with the selection of the official organization candidate in the primary election. After some considerable deliberation, in view of my recent return from overseas, and my desire to get back to the active practice of the law as soon as possible, I rather reluctantly consented to permit my name to be put forward. I was later informed that I was the official designee of the Republican Party in the primary election in the 18th Congressional District.

Q Were you endorsed by the Young Republicans?

A I was endorsed by the Young Republican Club, and a number of the men who came to see me were members of the Young Republican Club. The group was interested in having a strong Republican candidate in that district.

Q Were they affiliated with the national organization?

A They were local Republicans from the district. The Young

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Republican Club, of which I spoke, is an independent Republican organization, affiliated with the National Association of Young Republican Clubs.

Q Was your reluctance to become a candidate based on your opinion of the outcome of the election?

A No; it was not based on that. I had been overseas fighting a war for 3 1/2 years, and I had been in the public service for 6 years prior to that. I had a natural desire to return to the private practice of the law and make a reasonable living for my family. However, when the record of Congressman Marcantonio was pointed out to me, and particularly his consistent following of the Communist Party line in reference to national defense, I felt it was my duty as a citizen to permit my name to be put forward and I consented that that be done.

Q Were there any other organizations that endorsed you as the campaign went on?

A Yes; I was endorsed by the regular Republican organization, both locally and in the County; the Central Trades Council of the A.F. of L. endorsed me; the Liberal Party; the right wing labor group in New York gave their endorsement and there were many political organizations which gave me their support, including citizens' committees formed for the purpose of supporting Republican candidates in the district; Veterans' Committees and many others. We built up a large group of enthusiastic volunteers who supplemented the efforts of the regular Republican organization in canvassing, speaking, clerical work, mailings and all of the manifold activities incident to a campaign.

Q Are these the assembly districts where you polled your majority of the votes (indicating on map)?

A Yes; the 8th and the 10th, and also 3 districts of the 9th were the three districts in which I polled more than a majority of the votes cast. As I recall the figures, from my best memory, I lost the northern part of the 10th by about 2 to 1. The 10th is divided into 3 segments - the 10th South, the 10th Middle and the 10th North.

Q 96th to 106th Street would be 10th North?

A Yes.

Q How about the 14th?

A I took a bad beating in the 14th.

Q How about the 16th?

A I took a bad beating there, too. My recollection of the figures is that I lost the 16th by 4 or 5 to one.

Q To what did you attribute the loss of votes in those districts?

A In the first place, my opponent had his principal strength in the 16th, and in the 14th Assembly District, and some of the northern part of the 10th Assembly District.

In the beginning of the campaign, I knew there would be difficulties in the 14th and 16th Assembly Districts. The 16th is almost entirely an Italian section. The incumbent Congressman had built up a very strong organization in that area which was extremely effective in bringing out votes on his behalf, particularly among the Italian population. The same thing was true of the 14th, which was composed largely of Porto Ricans. Therefore, the main hurdle that had to be overcome was in the northern part of the

district where the Congressman had this very strong organization which apparently cut right across party lines.

Q At the outset of the campaign, was it your opinion that the regular organization up there was going to campaign vigorously for you?

A In the course of the primary campaign, I was told that there would be difficulty in getting the Republican vote out for me, even though Representative Marcantonio was not a Republican but was the Chairman of the New York County Committee of the American Labor Party. That apprehension was justified by the primary results. Rather surprisingly we broke even in the 14th Assembly District, but in the 16th I was beaten in the Republican primary by better than 4 to 1. It was clear that there had been defections in the regular Republican organization, and it is probable that there were a number of people enrolled as Republicans who weren't really Republicans at all.

Q During the campaign, I presume that you had meetings of the district leaders in those Assembly districts?

A Oh, yes.

Q What was the result?

A The results were these: In the 8th and in the 10th I got assurances of excellent support. In the north end of the district the leaders frankly told me that they had some difficult problems there with respect to getting out the Republican vote, those difficult problems being implicit in the fact that Vito Marcantonio has a very strong hold on that district and a lot of people would feel it necessary to vote for Marcantonio regardless of party lines.

Q Did they describe that stronghold in any explicit manner?

A They explained that Marcantonio had a very strong influence in all parties because of patronage which he controlled and because of favors which he had done for the local people. They said that the Republican organization would support me, but that there was great difficulty in holding some of their captains in line, particularly those who were under obligation to Marcantonio.

Q As to those difficulties, was it that they thought Mr. Marcantonio was the better candidate?

A That was not the case. It was that they were clearly unable to count on the support of some members of their own organization.

Q I presume from your name that you are of Irish extraction?

A It is a combination; I am Dutch, Swiss-Italian and Irish.

Q A witness we had here described the district as a "baby New York."

A I think it is almost a "baby League of Nations." I had lived in or close to the district most of my life, and that was in the south end of the district. It became apparent on analysis of the racial complexion of the district that there was a very large Italian segment, a substantial portion of it Italian-speaking. There was a substantial Porto Rican section, quite a number of them Spanish-speaking. There was a number of Irish in the district. There is a very substantial German segment in Yorkville; there is a large Hungarian group and there is a large Czech group, a substantial Slovak group; some Poles scattered here and there, and I think even some Finns in the north end of the district, as well as people of no particular immediate racial extraction, living in some segments and scattered through the district.

Q What about negroes?

A There is some negro population; I suppose about a couple of thousand.

Q As to the difficulties described by the District leaders in getting the vote out, did they in any way intimate or allege that the people in the northern end of the 18th Congressional District voted according to the way they were told or anything like that?

A It appeared to me that the people in the northern end of the district were pretty much inclined to vote the way they were told.

(Discussion off the record.)

A The Republican district leaders in the district were as follows: Beginning from south to north - the 8th Assembly District North, which is the first one we are talking about, the leader was Thomas Mallee; the leader of the 10th Assembly District south was Frank J. Ryan; the leader of the 10th Assembly District Middle was Charles Ferry; the leader of the 10th Assembly District north was David Levy; for the 14th Assembly District East it was Irving Levy, no relation I believe, to David Levy. The leader for the 16th Assembly District south was James Bruno, and for the 16th Assembly District North was William Duggan. Then of course, there were three districts of the 9th Assembly District of which present Congressman-elect Couder is the leader.

Q During the campaign and during Election Day, were there any acts of violence brought to your attention?

A Yes. I should say the outstanding act of violence was the brutal assault on Joseph Scottoriggio, who was the regular Republican captain in the 10th Assembly district north. There was also brought

to my attention threats, at least, that were made against three women workers in the Spanish and Porto Rican district by a man known as Willie Tizol, and earlier in the campaign there was an assault upon a man named Dominick Carich, which was committed in the south end of the district at an open air street corner meeting, and then we had reported during the course of the campaign that a sound truck on its way home after the close of its routine and its assignment within the district had been stopped by a car containing four or five men at Lenox Avenue and 120th Street, or thereabouts, and those men had leaped out of a private car and attempted to turn over the sound truck which was in charge solely of the driver.

Q. Was that complaint made by you or by the owner?

A. That complaint was made by the owner of the sound truck.

Q. Could you give me the name of the firm that owned it?

A. The name was Cassidy, I think.

Q. Will you supply that information?

A. Yes, I will.

Q. Did he complain to the police?

A. I don't recall whether he complained to us and we transmitted his complaint to the police, or whether he complained to the police direct.

Q. Was there any report rendered by the police or any investigation or anything else?

A. I know there was an investigation conducted because at one point a detective called upon me to obtain what information I had about the incident, and I referred him to the sound truck owner and to the driver whose name either I obtained for him or told him

where to get it.

Q Were any of the assailants of this truck identified?

A As far as I know, none. There was no identification, to the best of my knowledge.

Q Did anybody notice the tag number of the car?

A I had no report to that effect. There was also reported to me an incident which I am informed occurred at 116th Street and First or Second Avenue, while speakers were speaking from one of our sound trucks there, the truck was rocked very badly and was in danger of turning over.

Q When that sound truck was rocked, was that in the midst of a meeting where quite a few people might observe it?

A Yes; it was.

Q When you say "rocked," was that caused by individuals on either side of the truck trying to shake the truck?

A Yes.

Q What effect do you think it would have on the people present?

A It had two effects: I think, undoubtedly, a certain number of people who were there would have been seriously frightened by the incident. I think there must have been a certain number of other people who were angered by it.

Q But there were a certain amount that were impressed?

A Yes.

(Discussion off the record.)

A On Election Day I went to the Republican clubhouse of the 16th Assembly District North in the course of a tour that I was making of all the Republican clubs and as many of the polling places as I

could reach during the course of the day. This was in the afternoon of Election Day. There were several other people with me, including the man who was driving me.

Q Could you give us the names of some of those people?

A William F. Gaud and Aloysius Clark. I can't remember who else was with me at the time because the people varied. I went up to this club and the door was locked. We knocked on the door and the door was opened by some people who were inside, who were members of the club and whom I recognized. We then came in and discussed how things were going.

Q Was that door immediately swung open or was it partially opened?

A It was partially opened to see who was outside, and at that point, when the men who opened the door saw who I was, they said, "Come in." There was some discussion of how the election was going and how the vote was coming out, and also some discussion of the Scottoriggio assault which had occurred that morning, and which naturally had disturbed everybody very much, and particularly the people in that club because Scottoriggio happened to be a member of that organization. Among those present was the Republican leader in that area, a Mr. David Levy. Mr. Levy told me, in the presence of several of the people, including the two men whom I have just mentioned, that he had had a disturbing experience himself, either the night before or a couple of nights before, in which he said that several men had come into the club, had asked him to go downstairs and meet some other people. He had protested and they had been insistent. He then put on his coat and hat and had gone down-

stairs with them. There were apparently four other men downstairs and they forced him to get into one of two cars that were there; that he had done so unwillingly; that both cars had then been driven to a point close to the East River in the vicinity of 125th Street; that all of the men and Levy had then gotten out of the cars and there had been some discussion with him in which he was called a double crosser, with various other invidious terms; that he had maintained that he was merely doing his duty as a Republican leader and that he had been a staunch Republican all his life and was merely trying to do his job as such; that one of the men had then pushed him in the face, and after some additional discussion the men had told him to "get the hell out of there." Then he managed to get himself a taxi and had driven off.

Q What time did this take place?

A The interview was about in the middle of the afternoon on Election Day.

Q What date did these men visit the clubhouse?

A Whether that was the night before election or two or three nights before election, I don't recall. I don't recall what Levy said about that. I know that Levy said it was some night very close to election, but whether it was Election Eve or Saturday night or Sunday night I don't at present recollect.

Q Did Mr. Levy give you any reason for withholding this information at all, that he imparted to you at that time?

A No; he did not.

Q Did he mention Congressman Marcantonio's name?

A He didn't say he had seen Marcantonio, but he was clearly under

the impression that the men who had abducted him were Marcentonio's supporters.

Q Did he say that he could identify these men?

A I had the impression that he could not identify them.

Q Is his eyesight, to your knowledge, normal?

A I believe his eyesight is not very good. I understand that he has cataracts which impair his vision quite substantially, and he wears thick glasses.

Q Was he very active in the campaign in your behalf?

A Yes. We had a couple of meetings at that clubhouse, at which I spoke. Some of his workers were very active. For instance, Scottorriggio was particularly active.

Q In that connection, was he one of the most active captains in that particular district?

A I would definitely say so, yes.

Q Could you count the number of men that were really active in those assembly districts?

A I could not give you an accurate count of them. There were a few enthusiastic Republican captains, but in the north end of the district I had the impression that a great many were, at best, apathetic.

Q However, prior to Election Day, was Scottorriggio brought to your attention as a very active worker?

A Not only was he brought to my attention, but he got in touch with me and wanted to come down and discuss the situation with me. He did do that. Again, I cannot give you dates or precise times, but it was quite early in the campaign. In fact, it is my impression

that it was during registration week; it was as early as that.

I had first met Scottoriggio at a meeting at the local club in conjunction with a lot of other people. Then, on primary day when I was touring the polling places and I met Scottoriggio as the local Republican captain in one of the East River Housing districts and everybody said that Scottoriggio, or "Scotty" as he was called, was a man in whom implicit reliance could be placed and an exceedingly conscientious and earnest worker. The fact is that Scottoriggio's election district did very well for me in the primary, in contrast to many election districts in that sector. He almost broke even in the primary campaigns. His district was either the 52d or 53d of the 10th Assembly District; when he was introduced to me there I remembered him, and as a matter of fact, when the returns came in people said, "That was Scotty's district. Didn't he do well because he did much better than most of the rest of the district."

Q That was in the primary?

A Yes. Also, when Scottoriggio got in touch with me, I was very glad to see him and he came down to the store that we had our headquarters in at 1390 Second Avenue, and he saw me there. Scotty lived in the East River Houses, and the East River Houses were reputed to be a Marcantonio stronghold, and I am informed that Scottoriggio had formerly worked for Marcantonio because you will recall that Marcantonio had been a Republican candidate over a period of time, and as a Republican Scottoriggio had worked for him. Scottoriggio had broken off affiliations with Marcantonio, and I was told that there was some bitterness because of the fact that Scottoriggio had done so well on my behalf in the primary.

When Scotty came to see me, he discussed the situation at East River Houses and the registration there and he told me it was his impression that work in that area would have a very substantial effect on the vote; that he felt there was a number of people in the East River Houses who would respond to an intelligent campaign. I put him in touch with Mr. Sargent who was one of our principal people interested in canvassing.

Q. Which Mr. Sargent is that?

A. James Sargent, and I suggested that they try to work out some mutual program that would be beneficial and get the issues of the campaign across in that area. I saw Scottoriggio several other times during the campaign, and as a result of his contacts with Sargent, and with various other people in the course of the campaign there was a headquarters opened on First Avenue at 104th Street in which there was a number of volunteers who were working on canvassing and talking to people in that general area and Scottoriggio and his wife were both very active in using that headquarters as a focal point from which to work in the East River Houses area. We were very much encouraged by the progress that Scottoriggio appeared to be making, and anticipated doing much better than we had originally thought among the voters in that segment.

Q. Did Scottoriggio discuss with you why he severed his connections with Mr. Marcantonio?

A. I know that Scottoriggio was very anti-Communist and had expressed himself quite forcibly on that score to me whenever we met. He was tremendously disturbed by the progress of the far left.

organizations in the East River Housing development, particularly. He was a very loyal Republican worker.

Q At any time was he apprehensive about his personal safety?

A I am told that he expressed some apprehension about his personal safety to various people. He said something of that nature to Mr. James Sargent, and he mentioned something to either a Miss Brown who worked up there or a Mrs. Ford who worked up there.

Q Did you talk to Mrs. Scottoriggio?

A Yes.

Q At the time he was assaulted in the dark?

A Perhaps I can do it best by giving you the story as Mrs. Scottoriggio gave it to me. Apparently, Joseph Scottoriggio's alarm clock didn't go off, and he was due at the polling place early. He wanted to set up some tables a hundred feet away from the polling places, as is customary, for literature distribution, and make certain preliminary arrangements. He had all his cards. He was apparently a very meticulous political worker. He had his cards with the various comments on them prepared, and also had a list of some 18 names of people he proposed to challenge at the polls. So he dressed in a hurry and at approximately 5:45 a.m. he left the 10th floor of the East River Houses, where he lived, and his wife, Celia, then went to the window to watch him when he came out of the East River Houses. He proceeded across the street.

Q Did she give any reason or was that the usual practice that she watched him?

A I think she was nervous about his safety. He proceeded across the street, and at that time it was still dusk. It was not yet

fully light and there were apparently four men.

Q When did this conversation take place?

A This is the result of a number of conversations pieced together and this is all subsequent to the assault. These conversations are pieced together this way: All the time that Joseph Scottoriggio was in the hospital at the point of death, Mrs. Scottoriggio was going over this thing and over it, almost every time I came to see her. I tried to call every day to sort of comfort her as far as I could. She would bring out new pieces of this story. She noticed three or four men across the street, and one of them seemed to make some gesture as Joe Scottoriggio crossed, and then she saw one of them hit him - slug him. He fell and at least two of the men came over and kicked him as he lay there. They apparently kicked him in the stomach and kicked him in the head, as far as she could observe. When she came out there was a little fellow named Joe Somebody - Telefore or something like that who met Scottoriggio and apparently this Joe Telefore, when this assault took place, ran away. He was apparently frightened off and beat it.

Q Do you happen to know the Jose Telefore?

A No.

Q Did Mrs. Scottoriggio know who he was to meet?

A No; only in the sense that he was probably going over to the headquarters first and then going on to the polling places.

Q Was there some arrangement that this Joe was to meet him that she might have known about?

A I think he expected to see Joe because Joe was going to assist

him in these preliminaries before the polls opened - Joe and probably some other fellow, eventually. Scottoriggio was lying on the ground obviously, even from the 10th story window, pretty badly battered. Mrs. Scottoriggio came downstairs, saw her husband lying on the ground, bleeding profusely and apparently frantically tried to get somebody right away to help him, and eventually ended up in the public school, which is a polling place about half a block away, and there it was that she got in touch with Mr. Murray Sargent, whom I gather has testified before and made a statement to you. He is obviously more competent than I am to give you more details.

Scottoriggio was taken as rapidly as possible to the New York Hospital. I heard of this thing about 8:00 o'clock in the morning perhaps a little before 8:00; somewhere shortly after 7:00, and since I was scheduled to vote at 8:00 o'clock and there was a whole covey of newspaper photographers, who would set their equipment up on that basis, there was nothing I could do but go and vote and meet my press appointment, and then there was a radio interview program with Jinx Falkenburg which I had to be at, and which was held in a store some distance away, and when that was over I went up to the polling places.

Q Did you mention the assault on Scottoriggio on your radio program?

A I did not. As a matter of fact, it was not that sort of a program. It was an interview of people in the street. I was not going to make a speech or anything of that nature. At that time I had comparatively limited information and I wanted to check the facts before making any public statement. After going to the polling